

SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

December 7, 2012

TO: Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, Transportation Committee Chair
Councilmember Nick Licata

FROM: Assistant Chief Paul McDonagh
Special Operations Bureau

SUBJECT: **Report on SPD Speed Van Operations – July 1 to Nov 30, 2012**

Please accept this report on SPD's Mobile Speed Van (photo radar) operations conducted by the Traffic Section during the third and fourth quarters (partial) of this year

Van operations in the last two quarters: At the time of our August report to the Transportation Committee, the Department was primarily using the Speed Van for arterial enforcement that is consistent with the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission pilot project. After the commencement of the 2012-13 school year, the Traffic Section shifted deployment to concentrate on School Zone speed enforcement. Although, periodic enforcement still occurs at the arterial pilot site.

To-date, the Department has issued 1,440 citations for speeding in a school zone. The large number of violations reflects the 62 morning and afternoon deployments that the Department has made since school began.

Deployment Metrics and Discussion: The following table presents statistics that are descriptive of van deployment in Q3 and Q4 (to date) of 2012.

Items Tracked	School Zone	Arterial
# of deployments	62	39
# of citations issues	1,440	105
Posted speed	20	35
Mean speed	20	35
85th percentile speed	NA	NA
Mean violation speed	30	48
Percent vehicles in violation	11.6%	0.3%

Please note that the time period for the second quarter report is from April 2012 through June 2012. However, the time period for this report is July 2012 through November 2012. This will account for the variance in the number of deployments.

This vehicle speed data looks very similar to data captured for prior reports. Prior reports have shown in School Zones a 31 mph average violation speed and in Arterial Zones a 48 mph average violation speed. Similarly, the average non-citation speed has registered at 20 for School Zones and 35 for Arterials. The primary difference between these reports is that the number of school zone violations has increase by 1.6% and the number of arterial citations has decreased by one-tenth of a percent. It would be difficult to attribute these small differences to either a change in driver behavior or to the reliability of the equipment.

Deployment Schedule and Locations: Officer Morgan has trained three officers in the use of the new system and the Traffic Section has been using a multi-officer deployment schedule that more effectively apportions the required morning and afternoon shifts at schools. As indicated above, the Department has deployed the van 62 times since school began in September.

The Department has deployed the Speed Van in School Zones where Traffic officers have noted a speeding problem and seek to change driver behavior. These locations in Q3 and Q4 of 2012 included the Southwest Seattle locations of Gatewood Elementary, Arbor Heights Elementary and Sanislo Elementary. To the North, the Department has focused on Ridgeview Elementary on 75th Street NE. While the Department will continue to deploy at some of these locations, it is also evaluating new locations from the list of schools that SDOT evaluated as potential fixed camera sites. This list contains locations that tested positively for high speeds, but did not make the cut into the final four locations for fixed cameras.

Fixed Camera Installations: As we last reported, four schools have received the new fixed cameras: Broadview-Thomson K-8 School, Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, Olympic View Elementary School and Gatewood Elementary School. The cameras began issuing warning citations on November 1st and had been scheduled to issue real citations on November 26th, the first Monday after Thanksgiving break. This “go live” date was postponed when the Mayor and Police Chief learned that the cameras had issued over 5,000 warning citations in a little more than two weeks of operations.

The new go live date occurred yesterday, December 10th. The camera activation followed a media and outreach campaign designed to educate drivers and change behavior before any citations were issued. Attached is a flyer from the campaign. The Mayor has emphasized that the goal is to reduce speed, not to issue tickets. At the end of the warning period (Friday, December 7th), the Department had issued over 8,000 warning citations. Updated citation data for the fixed cameras, recorded after the go live date, will be included in future quarterly reports.

Please direct questions to Greg Doss at 206-615-1230. Thank you.

cc: Carl Marquardt, Mayor's Office
Council President Sally Clark
Councilmember Bruce Harrell
Chief John Diaz
Deputy Chief Clark Kimerer

Metrics from last report:

These data represent deployments from second quarter 2012

Items Tracked	School Zone	Arterial
# of deployments	20	24
# of citations issues	468	136
Posted speed	20	35
Mean speed	20.5	35
85th percentile speed	NA	NA
Violation trigger speed	various	various
Mean violation speed	31	48
Percent vehicles in violation	10%	0.4%

Metrics for current report:

These data represent deployments from July 1 to Nov 30 of 2012

Items Tracked	School Zone	Arterial
# of deployments	62	39
# of citations issues	1,440	105
Posted speed	20	35
Mean speed	20	35
85th percentile speed	NA	NA
Mean violation speed	30	48
Percent vehicles in violation	11.6%	0.3%